United Nations E/2019/3

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 August 2018

Original: English

2019 session
26 July 2018–24 July 2019
Agenda item 5 (a)
High-level segment: ministerial meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council

Letter dated 15 August 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council

I am writing to you concerning the voluntary review of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals submitted by Armenia during the 2018 high-level political forum, which includes references to my country that do not conform to reality.

The land border gate between Turkey and Armenia was closed in 1993 upon the spread of the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia and subsequent invasion of Azerbaijan's Kelbecer rayon by Armenia. However, the current status of the border gate does not constitute a blockade in view of the following.

The transit land transportation between Armenia and third countries is carried out through territories of Georgia and Iran through Turkey. Turkish airspace is open to civil aviation to and from Armenia. Charter flights are operated between Yerevan and Istanbul. Armenian citizens can visit Turkey with a valid visa. Moreover, Armenia is included in Turkey's e-visa system, providing an opportunity for Armenian nationals, including businessmen, to obtain their visas promptly.

In addition to these, approximately 100,000 Armenian citizens are residing in Turkey and their children can attend minority schools in Turkey as guest students.

The signing of protocols in Zurich in 2009 was a testament to Turkey's determination to normalize its relations with Armenia. Turkey also introduced numerous unilateral confidence-building measures to help restore confidence between Turkey and Armenia.

Turkey's vision for the region is based upon cooperative and mutually beneficial relations among all countries of the South Caucasus. This is why we develop regional infrastructure projects in cooperation with Azerbaijan and Georgia.

18-13615 (E) 270818

Please recycle

I would also like to remind that peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict will pave the way for a full and comprehensive normalization in the region where Armenia can also be a part of the existing cooperation schemes in the region.

We kindly request that the present letter be circulated to the members of the Economic and Social Council.

(*Signed*) Güven **Begeç**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.